



Maryland Agriculture Data

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

2002
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

MD-CW3002

October 21, 2002

Rain Improves Soil Moisture

Wet weather in Maryland continued into last week from the previous week, hindering field activities, but improving soil moisture. **Topsoil** rated in adequate supply increased 18 percent from the previous week and 55 percent from two weeks ago. Topsoil is rated 3 percent in surplus supply, 86 percent adequate, and 11 percent short. The recent precipitation is slowly restoring **subsoil** moisture, which remains in mostly short to very short supply. Subsoil rated in adequate supply is 3 percent more than the previous week, and 17 percent more than two weeks ago. Subsoil is rated 1 percent surplus, 35 percent adequate, 53 percent short, and 11 percent very short. This week marks the first week since May that a surplus in subsoil has been reported.

The rain showers put a damper on field activities with farmers averaging 3.7 **days suitable for fieldwork**.

Precipitation for the month so far ranged from 2.1 inches in Garrett County to 5.1 inches in Harford County. All counties have received above average accumulations of rainfall for October to date. Departure from normal ranges from .3 inches above normal in Garrett County to 3.1 inches above normal in Cecil County and Harford County.

Some field activities, such as cutting hay, are behind schedule for this time of year. **Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting**, is 87 percent complete, 8 percent behind last year, and 2 percent behind the five year average. The **fifth cutting of alfalfa** is 28 percent complete, 34 percent less than last year, and 14 percent behind the average. **Other hay, fourth cutting**, is 75 percent complete, 19 percent behind last year, and 10 percent behind the average. **Hay supplies** are rated 1 percent surplus, 41 percent adequate, 36 percent short, and 22 percent very short.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 2002 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1997-2001
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	82	70	90	84
Corn, for grain	83	76	77	69
Sorghum	35	30	57	46
Soybeans	25	19	40	31
Tobacco, stripped	10	5	27	11
Crop Progress:				
Soybeans, dropping leaves	87	78	95	88
Small Grain Seeding:				
Barley	87	69	76	73
Winter Wheat	41	33	37	34
Hay Harvested:				
Other hay, 4 th cutting	75	60	94	85
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	87	85	95	89
Alfalfa, 5 th cutting	28	26	62	42

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 2002 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Barley	0	0	5	70	25
Winter Wheat	0	0	7	74	19
Range & Pasture	7	15	40	31	7

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